

Message Text

PAGE 01 USUN N 00225 222327Z

14

ACTION SS-30

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2417

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0225

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN XF

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON SYG'S LETTER TO SECRETARY RE ISRAELI

EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN UNEF AND UNTSO TROOPS

REF: USUN 209

1. SYG'S JAN 21 LETTER TO SECRETARY RAISED BOTH OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE STEMMING FROM ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT IN AREAS CONTROLLED BY IT UNEF AND UNTSO TROOPS FROM COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT HAS NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. FROM USUN'S STANDPOINT, ONE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS ONLY INDIRECTLY ALLUDED TO IN LETTER, THAT IS, POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS TROUBLE IN SECURITY COUNCIL IF ISRAEL CONTINUES TO EXCLUDE CERTAIN CONTINGENTS.

2. DURING CONSIDERATION OF UNEF COMPOSITION IN LATE OCTOBER, BY FAR MOST SENSITIVE ISSUE AMONG NON-ALIGNED WAS ISRAEL'S THEN INSISTANCE THAT UNEF SHOULD INCLUDE ONLY COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT HAD RELATIONS. SOVIET DEL FANNED NON-ALIGNED ANGER.

3. IN OUR VIEW, EXCLUSION OF THREE AFRICAN CONTINGENTS, INDONESIA AND POLAND, COULD BECOME AN EQUALLY EXPLOSIVE ISSUE. TWO OF FIVE COUNTRIES INVOLVED, KENYA AND INDONESIA, ARE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL. IRAQ HAS REPLACED INDIA, AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO PLAY SPOILING ROLE IN ISSUE OF THIS NATURE. SOVIET DEL (WITH BYELORUSSIA NOW IN TOW) HAS RECENTLY

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PAGE 02 USUN N 00225 222327Z

SHOWN IT IS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO RE-INVOLVE SC IN MIDDLE EAST AND ISSUE IS READY MADE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. WE RECOGNIZE OF COURSE THAT OTHER IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

WILL AFFECT DECISION WHETHER TO ATTEMPT PERSUADE ISRAEL TO
ALTER ITS POLICY OF EXCLUDING CERTAIN UNEF AND UNTSO TROOPS.
ONE ELEMENT IN DECISION, WE BELIEVE, SHOULD BE POSSIBILITY
THAT COUNCIL, AT SUCH TIME AS INFORMAL METHODS HAD FAILED,
WOULD ATTEMPT TO COMPEL ISRAEL TO ACCEPT TROOPS FROM ALL
CONTINGENTS, FACING USG WITH UNPLEASANT DILEMMA OF WHETHER
TO VETO.
BENNETT

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